

MIOCR MATTERS

◆ Data Supplement Issue ◆



Corrections Standards Authority

FEBRUARY 2007 - FEBRUARY 2008



Colleen Stoner Joins MIOCR Team. . .

CSA's MIOCR Team is very pleased to announce the addition of a new member, Field Representative Colleen Stoner. Prior to joining the CSA, Ms. Stoner spent 18 years in the field of probation, where her experience included developing, implementing and overseeing numerous programs for juveniles, adults and detention facilities. Previous to her work in probation, she was employed by several community-based organizations and directed programs in the areas of substance abuse counseling, victim witness services and sexual assault prevention. Additionally, as the Independent Living Program Director for Napa County for over eight years, she has extensive experience in working with transitional age foster youth in developing curriculum, staff training and programs to support successful emancipation. Welcome aboard, Colleen!

Current and Future MIOCR Funding... \$\$\$\$

Current: California's fiscal crisis recently prompted the Administration to order several cost saving measures – one of which was a five percent reduction in current local assistance funding for the MIOCR grant program, which supports 44 projects across the state. To implement the Administration's directive, CSA staff initiated the process of amending the current MIOCR contracts, which expire on June 30, 2008, to reduce the original grant awards. The amended contracts reflect a commensurate reduction in the obligated match amounts for grantees.

Future: The Governor unveiled his proposed budget for 2008-09 in January. That proposal includes \$40.1 million in local assistance funds to continue the 44 existing MIOCR grants for an additional 12 months (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). This reflects a 10% reduction from the original MIOCR appropriation. To help ensure the continuity of projects in the event future funding is provided, CSA staff initiated the 2008-09 grant reapplication process.

Much remains to be done, including the release of a revised budget proposal by the Governor in mid-May, and continued review and action by the Legislature's budget and conference committees. The Governor will then meet with legislative leadership to make final decisions. Experience has proved that nothing is certain until the Governor puts his signature on the next Budget Act – and the MIOCR Team remains cautiously optimistic that funding will continue for the MIOCR projects.

The Context for the MIOCR Data Collection Effort. . .

Although the Legislature did not require an evaluation of the new MIOCR grant program, the CSA is committed to assessing the overall effectiveness of the funded projects on curbing recidivism among offenders with mental illness – both adults and juveniles – and sharing findings with all interested parties. By design, all of the funded projects are anchored in an evidence-based model that has proved effective in reducing the involvement of the target population in the justice system. The findings to date, although still preliminary, indicate that the MIOCR projects are achieving the desired goal of helping keep mentally ill offenders from further involvement in the justice system through the provision of mental health treatment and support services. To achieve this, the CSA requires grantees to collect and report data, on a monthly basis, that will enable staff to describe the populations served by the projects and to assess their impact through aggregated "before and after program enrollment" comparisons on key outcome variables related to recidivism (e.g., bookings and petitions filed, days in jail/juvenile hall) and client functioning (e.g., housing status and hospitalizations).

FMHAC recognizes Lynda Frost. . .



This year the Forensic Mental Health Association of California presented the Chris West Award for distinguished service in the field of forensic mental health to Lynda at its Annual Conference this past March.

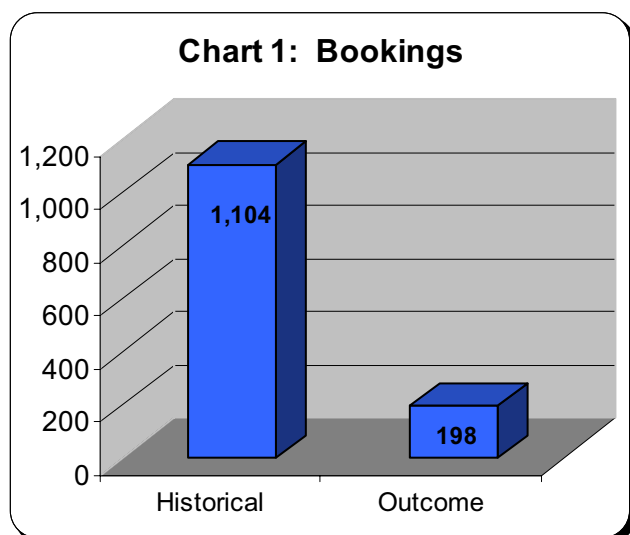
As many of you know, Lynda has been a strong advocate for the treatment of mentally ill offenders as a field representative for the CSA. She has made many presentations at conferences and meetings within the state, as well as nationally, regarding the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction grant, as well as authoring articles regarding the success of these programs. She has also been an active member in the Words to Deeds Leadership Group, sponsored by the California State Sheriffs' Association, which strives to end the criminalization of individuals with mental illness.

Congratulations, Lynda!

The findings in this second MIOCR Data Supplement are based on twelve months of data (February 2007 through February 2008) reported by 21 of the 22 adult MIOCR grantees and all 22 juvenile MIOCR grantees (due to local implementation challenges, one adult grantee has not yet reported enrolling participants for this time period). As the MIOCR programs executed various start-up timelines, data compiled for this report do not necessarily represent a full year's worth of data sets from each MIOCR project.

Findings for the Adult MIOCR Projects. . .

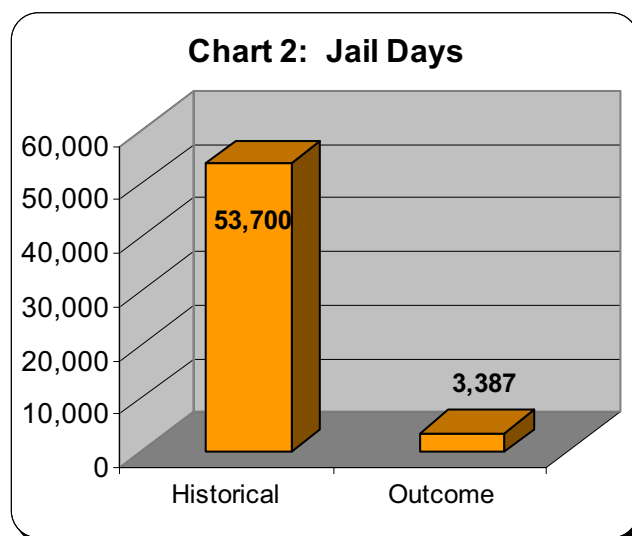
The 21 projects included in this summary have reported enrolling a total of 608 participants. Of these participants, 395 are male and 213 are female representing the following age groups: 18-25 year olds = 137 enrollees, 26-40 year olds = 243 enrollees, 41-60 year olds = 220 enrollees and 60 years and older = 8 enrollees. The ethnic make-up of MIOCR project participants are: 20% African American, 17% Hispanic, 54% Caucasian, 3% Asian, 2% Native American and 4% for all other ethnicities. Approximately 83% of all participants have a co-occurring disorder – i.e., a diagnosis of mental illness along with a substance abuse disorder.



The data submitted by grantees on criminal justice variables show that the enhanced treatment and support services offered through the MIOCR projects are making a positive difference. For example, during the 12 months prior to program enrollment (historical), the MIOCR participants had a total of 1,104 jail bookings. Through February 2008, counties reported a total of only 198 bookings for participants, an 82% decrease. Another desired outcome is a reduction in the severity of booking offenses (i.e., misdemeanors rather than felonies). At this point, the outcome data indicate the percentage of bookings for felonies seem slightly higher in the 12-month post-enrollment period than the 12-month historical period. However, CSA staff believes these preliminary results are due to a higher number of post-enrollment felony bookings reported by a single county.

As depicted in Chart 2, the 12 month results on the impact of the MIOCR projects on jail days are also promising – with a projected decrease of 94% based on the trend to date.

In terms of quality of life outcomes, the data indicate that the projects appear to be having a significant impact on homelessness. For example, 253 participants reported being homeless during the 12 months preceding their enrollment in the MIOCR projects; as of February 2008, only 20 participants remain homeless. In addition, the number of days these individuals were homeless during the 12 month pre-program period was reported at 41,395 days. Again, as of February 2008, programs have reported a total of 3,265 days homeless by participants in the months since enrollment - a 92% decrease.

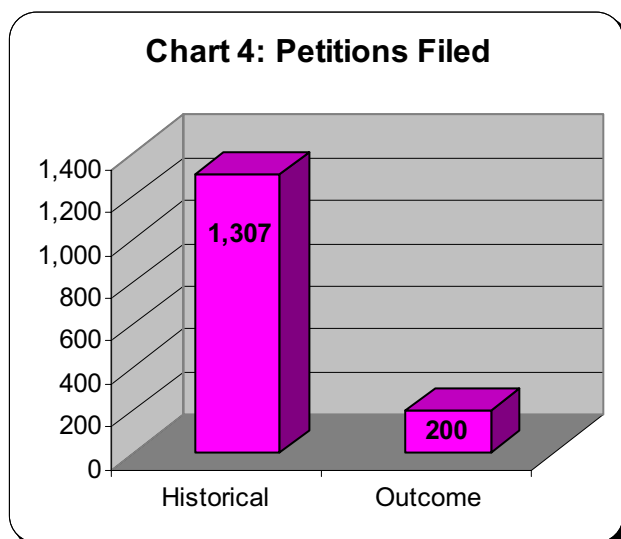
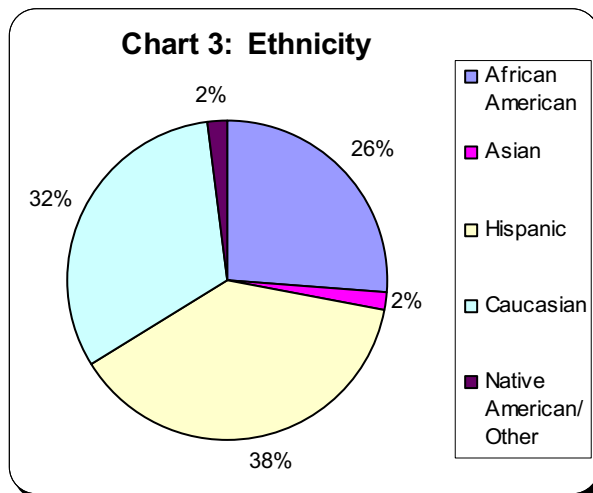


As CSA staff anticipated, the aggregated data now show an increase since the last data supplement in the number of participants receiving Medi-Cal benefits as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI - which is often the only source of financial support for people who suffer a serious mental illness). These federal benefits are almost always suspended or terminated while a person is in jail – and the process for reinstating benefits after an offender is released typically takes several months. The process for initiating benefits is also time-consuming. Data demonstrate these programs are having a positive effect on attaining these necessary benefits for the mentally ill offender population showing 50% of MIOCR participants enrolled in Medi-Cal benefits and 42% of participants attaining SSI. As more data is collected, CSA staff expects that percentage to continue to increase.

Findings for the Juvenile MIOCR Projects. . .

The juvenile MIOCR projects have reported data on a total of 793 participants. Of these participants, 594 are male and 199 are female. Almost half (41%) have a co-occurring mental illness/substance abuse disorder and over three quarters (76%) of the participants are 15-17 years old.

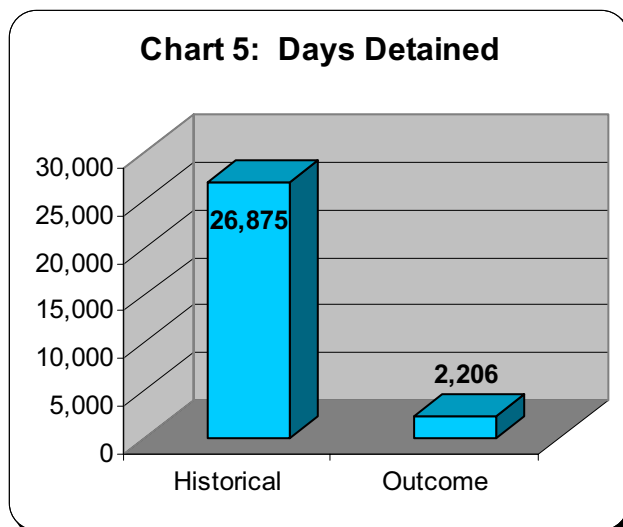
As depicted in Chart 3, the juvenile MIOCR projects are serving an ethnically diverse population of offenders in need of mental health services. To their credit, the projects are committed to ensuring that participants and their families receive culturally appropriate interventions from culturally competent staff. In addition, a few of the grantees have integrated their MIOCR projects into the county's already existing effort to reduce disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system.



In terms of juvenile justice outcomes, this 12 month data review indicates very promising results with respect to the total number of petitions filed by the District Attorney to initiate court action for a case. The historical data show that a total of 1,307 petitions were filed for the 793 program participants. Counties reported that only 200 petitions were filed against participants in the 12 months since program enrollment, translating to an 85% decrease (see Chart 4). The outcome data to date also indicate a decrease in the number of petitions filed for a felony versus a misdemeanor offense. Reviewing data for sustained petitions show very little difference in percentage of petitions sustained for a felony offense, although there has been a decrease in petitions sustained for misdemeanor offenses due to a rise in petitions sustained for status offenses.

Another key juvenile justice variable is the number of days youthful offenders are detained in a county juvenile hall, ranch or camp. Based on historical and 12 month outcome data, there has been a 42% reduction in the number of participants committed to local juvenile corrections facilities. In addition, as depicted in Chart 5, the current trend appears to show a 92% reduction in the number of days participants are detained.

The CSA collects various other outcome variables such as out-of-home placements and psychiatric hospitalizations, both of which have shown promising results. Out-of-home placements have decreased almost 80% since the initiation of these programs; psychiatric hospitalizations have also significantly decreased – from 117 hospital admissions historically down to only 20 to date.



THE MIOCR TEAM

Lynda Frost
Field Representative
916.445.4099
Lynda.Frost@cdcr.ca.gov

Helene Zentner
Consultant
916.323.8631
Helene.Zentner@cdcr.ca.gov

Colleen Stoner
Field Representative
916.324.9385
Colleen.Stoner@cdcr.ca.gov

Jaymie Nannini
Staff Services Analyst
916.323.8600
Jaymie.Nannini@cdcr.ca.gov